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ON THE ISSUE OF PRIVATE ART SCHOOLS FUNCTIONING IN GEORGIA AT THE END OF 19TH CENTURY

The development of the fine arts in Georgia has a long history but the establishment of professional forms of artistic education and the formation of educational institutions are related to the end of the 19th century.

Georgian and foreign artists residing in Georgia established private schools of art. Gigo Gabashvili, *Oscar Shmerling*, artist *Kandaurov*, sculptor *Yatsupski* etc. were amongst them. The generation of foreign artists who lived and worked in Georgia is characterized by a remarkable variety: the Germans (*Paul von Franken* and *Helen von Franken*, *Theodor Horschelt*), the Italians (*Luigi Premazzi*), the Russians (*P. Shishkov*, *F. Roubaud*), etc.

Gigo Gabashvili's contribution is immense. In 1897 He established a private school for art. In 1898 *Oscar Shmerling* founded an art school. Amongst his students were *L. Gudiashvili*, *Sh. Dzeladze*, *K. Maghalashvili*, etc. Likewise, the later school of the artist *Kandaurov* was very important.

These issues were actively dealt with by the press. "*Tsnobis Purtseli*", "*Droeba*", "*Iveria*" provided the readers with information on the establishment of art schools, the works of artists, etc. This information is still an important source for those interested in the end of the 19th century.